

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-4 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1, which includes the limitation "R⁵ represents radicals represented by RCO-, wherein R denotes a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group," is found on page 3, line 16 – page 4, line 3 of the present Specification. The amendments to Claims 3-4 serve to improve readability. No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1 and 3-4 will be active.

Applicants thank Examiner Solola for indicating that Claims 3-4 are allowed; however, it is believed that amended Claim 1 is also allowable.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the disclosure of Zheng et al. (of record) is respectfully traversed.

Zheng discloses a diterpene that is different from the claimed diterpene depicted formula (I) of Claim 1. For instance, Zheng discloses that the C9-substituent is a "-OAc" group. This is unlike the claimed diterpene, in which the C9-substituent is a "-OR⁵" group and R⁵ represents radicals represented by RCO-, wherein R denotes a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic group. There appears to be no suggestion in the disclosure of Zheng to have a diterpene compound as claimed in Claim 1 having a C9-substituent as presently claimed. It is kindly requested that the Examiner acknowledge this difference and withdraw this rejection.

It is noted that the Office has not acknowledged Applicants' claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to JP 2003-201340 (hereinafter JP '340), which was filed in the Japanese Patent Office on July 24, 2003. However, Applicants filed a certified copy of JP '340 on October 12, 2004, as evidenced by the attached "Request for Priority" and a copy of the certified copy of JP '340, which was downloaded from PAIR online. It is requested that the

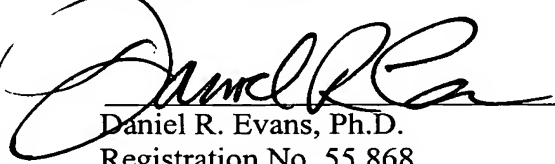
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Office acknowledge Applicants claim of foreign priority to JP '340. Additionally, Applicants file concurrently herewith an English translation of JP '340. Accordingly, Applicants' claim of foreign priority to JP '340 has now been perfected. It is requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same.

In view of the amendments to the Claims and the comments contained herewith, it is now believed that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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